

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2005  
John W. Collette Education Resource Center

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by DIAA Chairperson Mark Holodick.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Mark Holodick, Ted Williams, Gerald Allen, Dr. Robert Andrzejewski, Phyllis Kohel, Kathleen Wilbur, Debbie Corrado, Joan Samonisky, Dr. Dianne Sole, Michael Wagner, Dr. Garrett Lyons, Sister Ann Michele, Dr. Lewis Atkinson, Robert Reed, Zane Robinson, Ed Kee, and Dr. Jeffrey Hawtof. Kevin Charles, Executive Director, Mary Cooke, Deputy Attorney General, and Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General were also in attendance. John Oliver was unable to attend.

Mr. Williams recommended that the Board have a moment of silence in memory of the victims from Hurricane Katrina.

C. Introduction of New District Attorney General

Mr. Holodick welcomed Michael Wagner who is a new Board member and also welcomed the new Deputy Attorney General, Paula Fontello.

Mr. Holodick then presented Ms. Cooke with a plaque in recognition of her service for the DIAA Board.

D. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Holodick stated that there was an addendum to the agenda adding Items III. G. Consideration of Homeless Transfer Students from the Gulf Coast and Item H. Request for Waiver of 14 DE Admin Code 1009.7.1.2.1 for Salesianum Soccer Coach. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve the addendum to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kohel and carried unanimously. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes of the August 11, 2005, 2005 Board of Directors' Meeting

Mr. Kee made a motion to accept the August 11, 2005 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sole and carried unanimously.

F. Financial Report

Mr. Charles reviewed the financial report with the Board and commented on the income received so far this year as well as expenses that were paid. Dr. Sole made a

motion to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Sister Ann Michele and carried unanimously.

## II. Public Comment

None.

## III. Action Items

### A. Request for Waiver of 14 DE Admin Code 1009.2.7.1 for J.S.

Mr. Ken Brown, athletic director at Milford High School, Mike Tkach, football coach and athletic trainer, Phyllis Kohel, principal at Milford High School, and Jamie Sutton were in attendance to present this request. Ms. Kohel commented that she will recuse herself from voting on this matter but will be speaking on behalf of this matter. Mr. Sutton requested an open hearing. Mr. Charles commented that this was a request for a fifth year of participation due to a hardship under rule 1009.2.7.1 with regards to a difficult time during his first freshman year.

Ms. Kohel explained to the Board the hardship that Jamie went through. Mr. Tkach explained that Jamie wants to go to college and that playing football may help him to get a scholarship. Mr. Sutton thanked the Board for listening to his request. Mr. Sutton also commented on the hardships he went through during his first ninth grade year. Mr. Allen made a motion to go into deliberation at 9:30 a. m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried unanimously. Mr. Allen made a motion to come out of deliberation at 9:45 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously. Mr. Kee made a motion to approve this request as presented because it does meet the hardship criteria as stated in the DIAA Official Handbook. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried unanimously.

The Board recessed at 9:45 a.m. and reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

### D. Consideration of Bay Ball Classic Tournament Sanction Request

Dwayne Coverdale, tournament director of the Bay Ball Classic was in attendance to present this request. Mr. Charles explained that the consideration for this tournament began so as to replace the Slam Dunk to the Beach Basketball Tournament. Mr. Charles stated that he just received the application for sanction and a letter from Cape Henlopen School District stating that they are co-sponsors for the event. Mr. Charles also commented that the signed verification of eligibility forms were on the way.

Mr. Charles explained that there were five schools which will be using fifth-year students but that those students will no be competing in a separate bracket and only play each other. Mr. Coverdale commented that they only have four Delaware team competing this year but hope to have as many as eight for next year. Mr. Coverdale also commented that the tournament plans to give scholarships this year. Mr. Coverdale then explained to the Board the funding of this tournament. Mr. Williams made a motion to sanction the tournament provided we receive a budget for the

tournament, full eligibility for the tournament is submitted, and all other items necessary for the Executive Director to sanction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried by a vote of 15 yes (Holodick, Williams, Allen, Andrzejewski, Kohel, Wilbur, Corrado, Samonisky, Sole, Lyons, Sister Ann Michele, Reed, Robinson, Kee, and Hawtof), 0 – no, and 1 – abstention (Wagner).

B. Consideration of Screening Committee's Nomination for Coordinator of Officials

Mr. Charles commented that the interview committee selected five applicants out of 13 to be interviewed. Mr. Charles explained that the committee selected Thomas Neubauer as their nomination for the position of Coordinator of Officials. Mr. Charles reviewed the list of Mr. Neubauer's qualifications and stated that the committee feels he brings a lot of experience and background to this position. Mr. Williams, who was a member of the interviewing committee, stated that all applicants were good candidates. Ms. Wilbur made a motion to approve the nomination by the interviewing committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Charles reviewed the sanction requests and stated that recommends sanction for all requests. Ms. Kohel made a motion to accept the applications for sanction as presented by Mr. Charles. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

E. Consideration of Transition Academies Regulation

Mr. Charles explained that this was an issue that Mr. Holloway brought to his attention. Mr. Charles further explained that Mr. Holloway felt that there should be some regulation with regards to transition academies in the Handbook but could not find any even though the Board had already dealt with this. Mr. Charles reviewed the language that was approved by this Board on March 13, 2003. Mr. Charles explained that the language was intended to be listed in the handbook as a FAQ. Mr. Holodick explained what transition academies were to the Board members. After some discussion regarding changes that are being made with the transition academies the consensus of the Board was to revisit this at a later date.

F. Approval of Forfeit for DMA @ Mt. Pleasant 9/17/05 Varsity Football Game

Mr. Charles explained that DMA had a contract with Mt. Pleasant for September 17, 2005 but would have to cancel because the athletic director for DMA contacted Mt. Pleasant to let them know that they would not be ready to play a varsity level football game. Mr. Charles commented that he notified each school and the DIAA Football Committee that this would be a forfeit.

#### G. Consideration of Homeless Transfer Students from Gulf Coast

Mr. Charles commented that this is a subject being addressed by a number of states. Dr. Atkinson commented that Delaware was in the process of setting up a relocation center for any families that come to Delaware. Dr. Atkinson explained that Delaware was treating these children under the McKinney-Vento Act and would waive the 90 day transfer rule. Dr. Atkinson commented that DIAA needs to communicate to the member schools that if a student arrives at their school under this act to allow them to join the sport they choose and then find out if that student is eligible.

Mr. Charles commented that the neighboring states were placing the responsibility and were relying on the principals and athletic directors to make a good faith effort to determine eligibility based on available records and in the absence or delay of obtaining any available records that the eligibility rules be waived so that the student can resume a more normal life as soon as possible. Ms. Kohel made a motion to waive all eligibility for students coming to Delaware from affected areas of the Gulf Coast. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sole. Mr. Williams made a motion to amend the motion that we override the current rules on eligibility transfer of homeless students, also there will be a good faith effort by the schools to obtain the students records and where the student is coming from and that the students become eligible immediately and once the school has determined the students eligibility and the student becomes ineligible the school will not be penalized for the 2005-06 school year only. The amendment to the motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously.

#### H. Request for Waiver of 14 DE Admin Code 1009.7.1.2.1 for Salesianum Soccer Coach

Mr. Charles explained that all coaches are required to have CPR certification and the schools are asked to submit a list of their coaches that have CPR certification. Mr. Charles stated that a Salesianum assistant soccer coach who is temporarily medically unable to perform CPR and Mr. Hart, the athletic director of Salesianum School, is asking for a temporary waiver of 1009.7.1.2.1 to allow this individual to coach. Mr. Charles also commented that this coach will be with other coaches at all times. The consensus of the Board was that this coach would be permitted to coach.

### IV. Executive Director Report

#### A. Potential NFHS Hall of Fame Nominee

Mr. Charles explained that the National Federation has a Hall of Fame where they accept nominations for athletes, coaches, officials, administrators. Mr. Charles commented that Delaware has one individual in the Hall of Fame and wants to make an effort to get more people in. Mr. Charles commented that he is working on a nomination for Bill Cole and stated that he is open for future nominations.

B. Scholastic Coach & Athletic Director of the ¾ Century

Mr. Charles commented that he received a request from an organization that is having a 75<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and they are looking for a coach from each state. Mr. Charles stated that the recommendation that he received was George Schollenberger, a coach from Laurel, who coached for more than forty years for four different sports and Nancy Sawin who was very instrumental in women's athletics at Sanford School.

C. Update on Fall Sports Rules Clinics

Mr. Charles updated the Board on the clinics and commented that they all went well.

D. Status of Potential Sportsmanship Committee Proposal

Mr. Charles commented on the Sportsmanship Proposal that would require any team that receives a combination of three flagrant unsportsmanlike disqualifications by player and or coach would be disqualified from the state tournament. Mr. Charles stated that the Sportsmanship Committee was looking for feedback from officials, coaches, and athletic directors. Mr. Charles commented that he submitted this proposal at the rules clinic for comment.

E. New Medical Form Issues – Religious Waiver/Page One Releases

Mr. Charles stated that the use of the new medical form was going well but that there were a couple of issues raised. Mr. Charles commented that he received a call from a parent regarding the signatures needed on the first page where one of the signatures would allow releasing their child's medical records. Mr. Charles also informed the Board that some parents have expressed that they do not want to give release on pictures of their child. Ms. Samonisky commented that she had a parent that because of religious beliefs their child could not get a physical and the school told the parent that the student would not be able to participate without a physical. Ms. Samonisky stated that the parent did end up taking the child to get a physical but was concerned about this issue. Ms. Cooke commented that gave this issue to legal council at the National Federation but has not yet received a response.

F. NJ Coaches Survey

Mr. Charles informed the Board that the News Journal is conducting a coaches survey and want to conduct the survey at the rules clinics. Mr. Charles stated that he did give the News Journal permission to present this at the clinics as long as he would supply DIAA with a copy of the survey.

G. Youth In Sports 8-30-05

Mr. Charles commented that Dr. Axe asked him to be on his cable youthsports show. Mr. Charles stated that the show went well.

H. Status of IAABO #11 Appeal

Mr. Charles commented on the appeal for IAABO#11 and stated that the State Board of Education has appointed a hearing officer for this appeal.

V. Presentation and Discussion

A. Leadership Officiating – Kelly Callahan, DVOA, IAABO#11

Mr. Charles commented that Ms. Callahan could not be here today to present her report but that she did provide a written report. Mr. Charles reminded the Board that Ms. Callahan is the official that this Board approved to go to the NASO National Federation Sports Officiating Summit. Mr. Charles stated that Ms. Callahan has made her self available to the officials' organizations to present and discuss the topics from this summit with them.

Dr. Hawtof commented on an incentive plan that the Milford School District is proposing which was to give coaches monetary bonuses if they had a winning season. Ms. Kohel responded by saying that this incentive plan was not going to pass.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Wilbur made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

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Tina Hurley